Clean Version of Amended Claims:

C2

1. A sound-transmissive protective cover assembly, comprising:

(a) a microporous membrane supported only around its periphery by at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said membrane is free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

C3

SUB D1

6. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket;

wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded to and coextensive with the at least one adhesive support system so as to not impede independent movement of the membrane in the unbonded region.

C4

11. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least one membrane is ePTFE.

12. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said microporous membrane is supported only around its periphery by a plurality of adhesive support systems.

C5

SUB D3

26. A method of using a microporous membrane as a sound-transmissive acoustic protective cover for an electronic device having a transducer, comprising:

supporting a microporous membrane only around its periphery with at least one adhesive support system such that at least a portion of said membrane is free to move in response to acoustic energy; and

orienting said supported microporous membrane so as to cover the transducer in the electronic device, thereby forming a sound-transmissive acoustic protective cover;

whereby the cover has an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

28. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 1, wherein said adhesive support system further comprises at least one supplemental bonding site extending across a portion of said inner unbonded region.

29. A sound-transmissive cover assembly comprising:

C1

a microporous membrane layer having first and second surfaces and a perimeter defined by its edges, at least one of said surfaces bonded to a support system to form a periphery bonded region surrounding an inner unbonded region of the microporous membrane, whereby said first and second surfaces of said inner unbonded region are exposed to the atmosphere and free to move in response to acoustic energy, said assembly having an instantaneous water entry pressure of at least one meter water column and an overall acoustic transmission loss of no more than 3 dB in the range of frequencies from 300 to 3000 Hz.

30. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein said support system comprises at least one adhesive ring.

31. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein said support system comprises a plastic encapsulation.

32. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, further comprising means for bonding the assembly to an acoustic device.

33. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises a black color.

34. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises an oleophobic treatment.

35. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the assembly further comprises an acoustic gasket;

wherein the acoustic gasket is bonded to and coextensive with the at least one adhesive support system so as to not impede independent movement of the membrane in the inner unbonded region.

36. The sound-transmissive cover assembly of claim 29, wherein the at least one membrane is ePTFE.

Clean Version of Amended Specification (Page 9, first paragraph) :

region of the protective membrane 20 exposed to the atmosphere and surrounded by an outer bonded region is formed. In the unbonded region, the combination of the two adhesive support systems 22 and 24 constrains the edge of the protective membrane 20 and thus allows upstream sound pressure waves to vibrate the protective membrane 20 and transfer structureborne energy (mechanical vibration) of the protective membrane 20 to airborne energy (pressure waves) downstream of the acoustic protective cover assembly 14, resulting in low acoustic loss/attenuation.